



Liberal Times

The official newsletter of the Nepean-Carleton Federal Liberal Association
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PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Dear fellow Liberals,

It’s been an exciting and active few months since our last newsletter. First, I want to congratulate our Nepean-Carleton Young Liberals for been organizing and helping out with our local campaign as well as carrying out their first major fundraiser that drew a record crowd of MPs and enthusiastic, youthful supporters. It was very encouraging to feel that spirit and we congratulate all of them on their hard work at making the Nepean-Carleton Young Liberal Association one of the best in Canada.



President Gordon Shields, left, and numerous other Nepean-Carleton Liberals attended the NCFLA Energy & Technology foun on March 10.

Our candidate, Ryan Keon, and his campaign team are well underway with plans and activities in preparation for the next election. A great deal of work remains and your assistance will be welcomed. So please take a moment to visit Ryan’s website at www.ryankeon.ca/home_e.aspx

I want to congratulate Mark Johnson, who is the editor of our *Liberal Times* newsletter and is also our Communications Chair. He was acknowledged this year at the Liberal Party of Canada (Ontario) AGM as our riding’s Volunteer of the Year. Mark puts countless hours of work and dedication into the riding association and our communication activities. We are all lucky to have him and the many of you who share his similar enthusiasm.

Looking ahead, our Leader, Michael Ignatieff, will be holding The Canada at 150 Conference in Montreal, this weekend (March 26-28), and this will be an opportunity for Liberals and non-Liberals alike to share in a wide ranging

discussion on issues affecting Canada’s future and place on the global stage leading toward Canada’s 150th birthday.

It brings together leading thinkers from across Canada and around the world to help grapple with the big issues facing Canada and will be supported by the thousands of Canadians across the country who will be able to participate via the Internet. It will an important moment in the Party’s history and we are looking optimistically ahead to its outcome and influence for helping shape bold new policy ideas and direction for Canada.

Thank you for your continued support to the Nepean-Carleton Federal Liberal Association.

Gordon Shields
President
Nepean-Carleton Federal Liberal Association

Stephen Harper launches yet another attack on women

Remember when the Conservative government took aim at Status of Women Canada, removing the word “equality” from its mandate? Now, it’s Chapter 2 of the Conservative vendetta against women.

Funds previously provided by CIDA to the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) provided aid to those in poor countries, such as family planning and HIV/AIDS counselling and services, including contraception, mobile clinics and other programs. One recent Canadian program in Uganda included nutrition and distribution of malaria nets.

Naturally, such evil is not tolerated by this government. Only Conservatives understand the wickedness of providing nutrition, fighting disease and providing counselling.

So why have they taken aim at foreign aid? Conservative backbencher Brad Trost petitioned the government to cut off funding because they have the nerve to tolerate birth control services.

Pretty nervy considering they have a minority government. Just imagine the damage they could do if they achieved the majority they so desperately crave. Reproductive freedom may become a thing of the past, capital punishment may again rear its ugly head, and our prisons may be filled with teenagers caught with a joint, and charged as adults in line with Conservative no-sense approaches to crime.

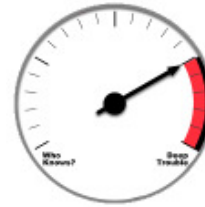
And then there’s the vicious attack on Christian aid organizations with the revocation of funding for KAIROS, an organization including the Mennonites and Anglican, United and Catholic Churches, which fought violence against women, environmental degradation and poverty abroad.

The push by Mr. Trost smacks of petty politics. Cutting off this vital funding

CONSERVATIVE FLIP-FLOP-O-METER KEEPS ON ROLLING

It’s no secret that people tend to prefer strong leadership, not waffling. Predictably, Prime Minister Harper seems determined to set a new record for political indecisiveness. Here are four examples of his weak-kneed flip-flops - all just this March!

1. **The national anthem.** In the Throne Speech, the prime minister announced that he was going to fix the national anthem, to eliminate sexism. After receiving flak from his crybaby cabinet ministers, he suddenly realized he was against the idea, barely 48 hours after declaring his support.



2. **Rural Internet.** In early March, Industry Minister Tony Clement informed libraries and community groups across the country that long-standing funding for public Internet access is disappearing. A week later, amid outrage, the minister explained that it was all a matter of “confusion.” What he apparently meant to say was that funding will be maintained. Funny, considering organizations had been told that the funding was to be cut.

3. **Taxes.** At the beginning of the month, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty declared, “Our government will not raise taxes.” One can’t help but shake one’s head at the sheer obviousness of this falsehood. The government, when it was still young, took the overwhelmingly unpopular step of raising taxes on income trusts from 0% to 31.5%. Further, payroll taxes are set to skyrocket, which will not only penalize average Canadians, but is also expected to de-

would not only encourage the spread of malaria, restrict the availability of contraception (possibly increasing the spread of AIDS), and generally worsen the quality of life of many, many people. The Conservatives already cut 99 percent of funding to the Canadian Federation for Sexual Health, Canada’s member of the IPPF, down from \$1.3 million in 2006.

The Liberal Party of Canada will not sit idly by while the Conservatives

stroy up to 200,000 jobs. A brilliant manner of prolonging the recession - Conservative economics. Flaherty says no tax hikes - we’ll watch, as it’s at the beginning of 2011 that the 31.5% tax increase is scheduled to occur.

4. **Ten-percenters.** Fondly known as taxpayer-funded “hate mail,” these are the annoying, attack ad flyers that clutter our mailboxes. MPs are permitted to send the flyers to other ridings, to a number of residences equal to ten percent of their own riding. The figures show that, last year, Conservative MPs spent an average \$49,680 on ten percenters, while the comparable Liberal total was \$18,500. In January alone, the Conservatives sent out roughly 10 million pieces. The Harperites defend the practice, which has permitted them to spread untruths, such as saying the Liberals plan to raise the GST, and are anti-Semitic. Such cruelty is worsened further by the fact that we taxpayers are shouldering the cost of government propaganda. On March 16, 2010, a Liberal motion calling to the cancellation of the ten percenter privileges passed, by a vote of 140-137. The Conservatives, of course voted to maintain their taxpayer-funded attack ad spree. However, once the votes were tallied, they decided to ignore the vote, but then flip-flopped when the PMO suddenly decided they were against the program. A flip-flop in the right direction, but a flip-flop nevertheless.

Canadians will be watching. How many policy flip-flops can the Conservatives make in a month? Only time will tell.

implement their dangerous and wrong-headed philosophy.

The Liberal Party of Canada, along with many, many Canadians, are calling on Prime Minister Harper to assure Canadians that he won’t change Canada’s long-standing tradition of recognizing women’s reproductive rights and access to contraception as part of his maternal health initiative, and will work in full partnership with the IPPF.

YOUNG LIBERAL BEAT

It's been an exciting few months since our last update, and I'm pleased to announce the Young Liberals are alive and well in Nepean-Carleton. With our star candidate, Ryan Keon, off to the Races, it's good news for all as he goes door knocking for the change we've all been looking for.

On March 16, we also held our first fundraiser for the NCYLA at the Royal Oak on Bank Street. It was a fantastic event, and was well attended. Special guests included Justin Trudeau, Martha Hall Findlay, Mark Holland, Mauril Belanger, Yasir Naqvi, and Ujjal Dosanjh, all in attendance to wish our Young Liberals well. The event exceeded our fundraising goal and will be well used making future events and supporting Young Liberal initiatives in the riding. The Young Liberals of Nepean-Carleton would like to thank all who came together to make this event such and success.

There will hopefully be more events of this kind in the future, so let's keep our eyes and ears focused to the future in our bid to elect Ryan Keon as the next MP for Nepean-Carleton!

Special thanks goes to the wonderful staff at the Royal Oak for their hard work in making the location wonderful for our event.

We'd also like to mention that joining our executive are new members Micky Yu and Courtney Demers. We look forward to having them on the executive, and welcome them to Nepean-Carleton.

*Ben Barkin
President
Nepean-Carleton Young Liberals*

**Check out the
Nepean-Carleton
Young Liberals on
Facebook!**



Our Young Liberals had a healthy contingent at the LPC(O) AGM. Here is president Ben Barkin with MP Dr. Carolyn Bennett.

Harper admits he wishes he wasn't Prime Minister

The first thought that popped into your head after reading that headline was, no doubt, wow, I agree with the prime minister! I wish he was out of office too!

In a move characteristic of the prime minister, he recently chose to do an interview with U.S. rather than Canadian media. There, he admitted that, if he had the choice, he'd rather be ducking punches in the NHL rather than in Parliament.

He said that his admission was "probably terrible to say." Not according to the majority of Canadians! Perhaps he should go with his gut and leave office before he inflicts the irreparable damage he and his backbenchers are planning if they get their majority.



Foolish prorogation derails legislation, wastes taxpayers' money

Canadians from coast to coast to coast rose up against the Conservatives' self-serving prorogation this winter. The shuttering of Parliament, apart from being blatantly partisan and undemocratic in light of the timing, also needlessly wiped the slate clean of bills. Here are just a few of the 36 bills that were delayed by prorogation, along with their previous status in Parliament.

BILL C-6 Creates a new system to regulate consumer products that pose a health danger; Third reading in Senate

BILL C-27
Sets limits on e-mail spam sent by companies; Second reading in Senate

BILL C-34
Strengthens the National Sex Offender Registry and the National DNA Data Bank; Committee report tabled

BILL C-46
Gives police power to look for online predators; Second reading in House

BILL C-52
Provides retribution for victims of white-collar crime; Second reading in House

BILL C-58
Requires Internet service providers to report tips about child pornography; Second reading in House

BILL S-6
Amends Canada Election Act to limit loans to political parties; First reading in Senate

BILL S-7
Limits term of senators appointed after Oct. 14, 2008; First reading in Senate

A SPRING UPDATE FROM THE NCFLA POLICY COMMITTEE

The NCFLA Vice-President (Policy), Rabia D'Andrade, along with the policy team, will be engaged in the following activities in the next several months. The committee is fresh from the success of the recent Town Hall Forum on Future Sustainable Energy and Technology for Job Creation in the National Capital Region and Canada as a whole, held at the Walter Baker Centre on March 18, 2010, with speakers MP David McGuinty, Richard Patten from Plasco and Elizabeth McDonald, president of the Canadian Solar Industries Association.

The Committee will be developing three Policy Proposals during the next several months, including:

a) The Canadian Diaspora: The policy would uphold Canadian citizenship and support those Canadian Diaspora under duress with whatever appropriate governmental means are available. It would be delivered, without consideration of the international circumstances, to ensure just and fair treatment for Canadians abroad.

b) Canadian Food Safety: How safe is the consumption of imported hogs and cows? Paul Caron, a retired federal food inspector, reported to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation that lax rules governing meat imports "leave Canada vulnerable to bioterrorism and outbreaks of dangerous bacteria such as listeria." The proposed policy would

mandate that all meat imports be inspected by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency so as to prevent outbreaks of dangerous bacteria such as listeria and to prevent the transmission of animal diseases to humans.

c) Future of Sustainable Energy and Technology for job creation in the National Capital Region and Canada: Input received from the Energy and Technology proposed event on March 18 will be used to develop this policy proposal.

Rabia D'Andrade
Chair
NCFLA Policy Committee

Report from the Nepean Women's Liberal Association

The following has been excerpted from the President's Report, delivered by former NWLA president Karen Sinclair at the AGM on Monday, March 8, 2010.

As always, our membership has been extremely busy and involved with numerous federal and provincial activities: nomination campaigns, by-elections, federal and provincial AGMs and input to policy making.

On September 28, in conjunction with the Ottawa-Vanier Liberal Women's Club, we held the second in a series of campaign college workshops directed at women seeking elected office.

Our members were well-represented at the 40th Anniversary of the Royal Commission on the Status of Women on January 27 and at the recent series of roundtables hosted by the Party on Economic Security for Women, Health and Health Care and Veterans Affairs. We are never at a loss for something to do.

It is fitting that our 2010 Annual General Meeting coincides with International Women's Day, the theme of which this year is "Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities, Progress for All".

Equality for women and girls in Canada IS under attack today, with the most vociferous assault coming from our federal government. Some of its tactics have been overt – the cancellation of the \$5 billion child care agreement worked

out with the provinces by the Martin government and the closure of 12 of 16 Status of Women offices. Others have been covert – the inclusion of the Public Service Equitable Compensation Act with the 2009 Budget. As a result of this Act, while employers are legally obligated to guarantee pay equity, there will few avenues of recourse open to women should the employer fail to uphold it.

The Office of the Auditor General has found that federal government departments lack clear guidance from the Treasury Board Secretariat and Privy Council Office about how they are to apply gender-based analysis to policies and programs. Without an effective assessment system, the government will not be able to determine its success in meeting its commitments. Based on its record to date, one has to wonder if it has any commitment at all.

As outgoing president, I doubt I will have a captive audience such as this in the near future, so I hope you will allow me to muse aloud for a few moments. To my mind, the Reform-Conservative government of Stephen Harper is morally bankrupt. It is not representative of real Canadian conservatives. For me, a real Canadian conservative is Flora MacDonald, Bob Stanfield or Bill Davis, not Lisa MacLeod, John Baird or Pierre Poilievre.

In the Canada of Stephen Harper and the Reform-Conservatives:

- only 1/3 unemployed women can access

EI and even then the benefits are too low to cover basic needs,

- 40% of aboriginal women have not completed high school
- 35.6% of single mothers were living in poverty after taxes in 2004
- Women accounted for 60% of all minimum wage workers in 2008
- 22.1% of MPs are women, ranking 49th in the world behind many developing countries
- Advocacy groups have been warned not to make public statements contrary to state government public policy if they don't want to risk losing their funding

On the international stage, the actions of the Harper government have made us look foolish with respect to climate change initiatives. Details of the maternal and child health initiative in developing countries which is on the agenda for the G8 Summit in Huntsville this June are sketchy at best. Unlike other countries, such as the UK, Norway and the Netherlands, there is no dollar figure attached. Of that, I think foul scorn.

In closing, I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to an executive which has given me so much support over the past 2 years. Karen Harrison, our incoming president, is a lady of great wisdom, wit and class who I know will serve all of us very well indeed.

Thank you.

Remembering war veterans deemed wasteful by the Harper government

For years, young Canadians have benefited from an award-winning program called Lest We Forget, an initiative that connected students and veterans by bringing classes to the Learning Centre at Library and Archives Canada in Ottawa for workshops, in which they sift through the service records of veterans that were filed away more than 90 years ago.

Naturally, such an educational and valuable program quickly became a target of Conservative cuts. The program cost was minimal, but its meaning and impact are immeasurable. MP Rob Oliphant, our veterans' affairs critic, reacted angrily to the news of the Conservative cuts, insisting that the program should be expanded, not killed.

Students were able to learn all about our military veterans; the files they explored included their medical records, service records, photographs, and much more. Youth from across the country enjoyed the program. Unfortunately, remembering those who fought and died for our country is among the lowest of priorities for this Conservative government. Count on the Liberal Party to fight this slap to the face of veterans.



Update from the Nepean-Carleton Provincial Liberal Association



Open Ontario – Our 5-Year Plan

The new Speech from the Throne has laid the foundation for growth. Together we will strengthen our economy, and create more jobs for our families. That's why we've launched a new, five-year Open Ontario Plan.

Growing our economy means being open to change and opportunity in our new world. Open Ontario starts with creating a climate where business can thrive, create jobs and build innovative new products to sell to the world. We'll make our province the North American leader in clean water conservation, new ideas and new technologies.

Open Ontario is also about our plan for education. Four- and five-year-olds are starting full-day learning this fall. We're raising our rate of post-secondary education and making more room in our colleges and universities for more students.

And we will continue to stand behind our talented skilled tradespeople. We are absolutely committed to a strong public health care system and we will introduce new legislation to improve accountability.

And we will improve services for patients by encouraging health care professionals to work together. Everything we're doing, and each step we're taking, is about opening Ontario to create new jobs and new opportunities for our families.

Major components of our 5-year plan include: Water Opportunities Act; Investing in Postsecondary Education; Northern Resources; The Future of Health Care; Tax Reform; Green Energy Act; Infrastructure; Full-day Learning; and Investing in Financial Services.



Join our Local Team!

To become a member of the Nepean-Carleton Provincial Liberal Association, contact Jai Aggarwal, President, by e-mail (aggarwalj@rogers.com) to join our local team today.

What is the HST, and what are the new income tax reforms that go with it?

Harmonization is, quite simply, the single most important thing we can do to create jobs and grow our economy.

Literally, HST stands for "harmonized sales tax." It would combine the current federal GST and provincial PST into a single tax. Our current system is outdated and burdensome. Businesses currently spend an extra \$500 million a year submitting two sets of tax forms to two different levels of government. That doesn't make sense.

A harmonized sales tax is good for business and it's good for our economy. And our income tax reform, which includes permanent income tax cuts (benefiting 93% of Ontario taxpayers), rebates, and credits, are good for Ontario families.

Here's why:

- All Ontario taxpayers would see a 16.5% cut in the tax rate on their first \$36,848 of taxable income—the lowest rate of any province in Canada.
- Ontario families and individuals with up to \$80,000 of income would get an average personal income tax cut of 10%.
- Eligible families (including single parents and senior couples) with an annual income below \$160,000 would receive three payments totaling \$1,000 throughout the transition period.

- Eligible individuals with an annual income below \$80,000 would get three payments totaling \$300 throughout this period.
- Our new, permanent sales tax credit of up to \$260 for each adult and child per year will benefit almost 3 million low-income Ontario families.
- And 90,000 Ontario taxpayers with low incomes would pay no Ontario personal income tax thanks to our tax reforms.

Our tax reform package is a comprehensive solution that will boost our economy in these challenging times while helping families through the transition and providing permanent personal income tax cuts. It's good for business and it's good for families.



Victory in Ottawa-West Nepean

The Ontario Liberal Party welcomed back Bob Chiarelli to the Ontario Legislature after his byelection win in the riding of Ottawa West-Nepean.

Our Next Event

We will be hosting our next event on April 13 at the Westcliffe Community Centre. Information about this fun-filled evening will be coming your way very shortly.



Local Liberals listen at the recent Ryan Keon volunteer appreciation event

Conservative government launches attack on faith-based aid organizations

KAIROS, an honourable, reputable organization working to promote human rights and environmental awareness in Canada and overseas in addition to its charitable activities, has unfortunately fallen victim to the Harper regime.

This faith-based international aid association that has taken positions on climate change, the environment and poverty in contrast to Conservative policy had its funding cut – yet again showing the vindictive, partisan nature of the government.

KAIROS represents some of our largest faith communities, including the Anglican Church of Canada, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Mennonite Central Committee, the Christian Reformed Church and the United Church of Canada.

Legendary human rights activist and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu has decried the Conservative government's cuts as an "unparalleled setback for the poor, vulnerable and disenfranchised." The Archbishop praised the work of

KAIROS in upholding and promoting human rights, and thanked the initiatives of Canadian churches.

Liberal MP John McKay, and numerous other Liberals, also leapt to the defence of KAIROS. "The Harper government is sending a signal to NGOs that receive CIDA funding that if you dare criticize them or hold them to account, you will be punished," McKay said. "This is flagrantly un-democratic. The decision mocks freedom of speech, and is an insult to the faith communities of Canada."

...and also takes aim at small businesses, and average Canadians

Your neighbourhood ethnic grocery store. That mom and pop restaurant you grew up with. Your community drugstore. These are just a few of the victims of the tax hikes of the Conservative budget just brought down.

This government, fresh from plunging Canada into the deepest deficit of our history, did find billions for big corporate tax cuts, the lion's share of which are going to the likes of the big banks, the auto companies (who already received bailout money) and big oil. The poor Bank of Nova Scotia CEO, who pulled in only about \$11 million last year, will see his company enjoy huge tax breaks.

But how to pay for this? The Conservatives decided to, as per usual, pick on the little guy. Attacking the civil service (as they are awash in scandal) is not enough to satisfy their mean streak.

The average Canadian is going to have to cough up a lot more dough to finance the huge corporate tax cuts. They claim the corporate tax cut enhances our competitiveness – and yet we're already far below the tax rates of our chief competitor – the United States. Our personal income taxes are higher, but far be it for this government to cut those

taxes. That would be too kind-hearted – and too economically sound.

Helping the super-wealthy would seem to be their priority. That's why we can look forward to huge payroll tax increases – the tax that is deducted from your paycheque and put toward the employment insurance fund. This is the tax that hits employees hard – and employers even harder, because they pay high premiums for each employee they bring aboard.

These taxes are easily manageable for the huge corporations, but the small businesses among us will suffer. Even worse, the government is pushing through the maximum allowable increase in a single year, and plans to do so for several years in a row.

Liberal MP John McCallum, a former top economist at Royal Bank, notes that this first hike in employment insurance premiums could, according to the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, cost Canadians 200,000 jobs in the short term and reduce wages by 1.5 per cent over the longer term. What great policy for a recession, eh?

"Small business drives the Canadian economy, yet Mr. Harper has decided

to raise payroll taxes and kill jobs at a critical point in our recovery," said Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff.

"The Liberal Party has a different approach – we want to look for ways to lower EI premiums for those who are trying to create jobs, as part of a long-term vision for sustainable job creation."

Job creation proposals put forward by the Liberals include EI premium rebates for businesses that hire young Canadians, who suffer double the national average unemployment rate.

Your friends in the federal Liberal caucus will continue to fight these mean-spirited Conservative tax hikes. Their habit of fleecing average Canadians to pay for tax cuts for their wealthy CEO buddies, to finance their pet projects and to excessively build up military weaponry is not what people want.

A balanced approach, delivering tax relief while maintaining funding for our core programs and services, creating jobs, protecting our environment, and investing in our youth, is the approach favoured by the Liberal Party of Canada, and that vision will be ceaselessly promoted in Parliament and across our great country.

Questions / Comments? Please feel free to contact Mark Johnson, Editor, at Nepean.Carleton@gmail.com. He welcomes all feedback!